

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 and 147-173 were pending prior to the Office Action. By this amendment, claims 17, 35, 41, 159 and 165 are canceled without disclaimer or prejudice; claims 1, 12-15, 18, 19, 25, 35-39, 42, 43, 149, 160-163, 166 and 167 are amended; and new claims 174-176 are added. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 11-19, 35-43, and 159-167 are allowable. Independent claims 1, 25, and 149 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowed claims 11, 35, and 159 respectively. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 25, and 149 are allowable as are all claims that depend therefrom. New claims 174, 175, and 176 recite the subject matter of previous independent claims 1, 24, and 149 and the subject matter of allowed claims 17, 41, and 165 respectively. Accordingly, the new claims are also allowable as are claims 18, 19, 42, 43, 166 and 167 that have been amended to depend from new claims 174, 175, or 176.

Applicant makes amendments herein without prejudice or disclaimer and reserves the right to pursue the cancelled subject matter in a continuing application.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If, however, the Examiner deems that any issue remains after considering this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney to expedite the prosecution and engage in a joint effort to work out a mutually satisfactory solution.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,
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